SURAH OF AL-ASR

THE RESEARCH:
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AL-ASR

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THE REFERENCES

1) https://quran.com/al-asr/info

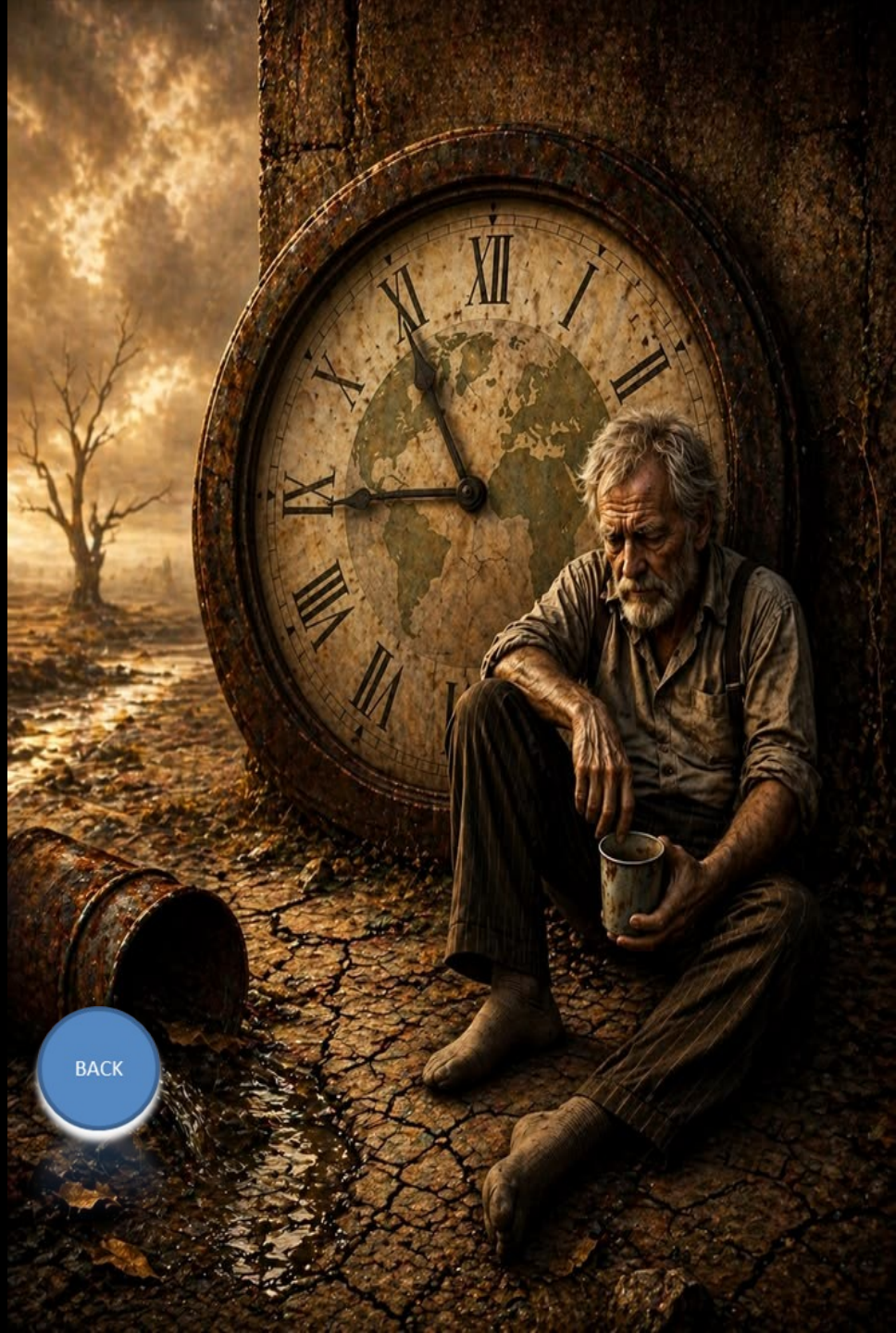
2) https://quran.com/al-asr

THE BACKGROUND 1

Adapted from Tafsir Ibn Ashur

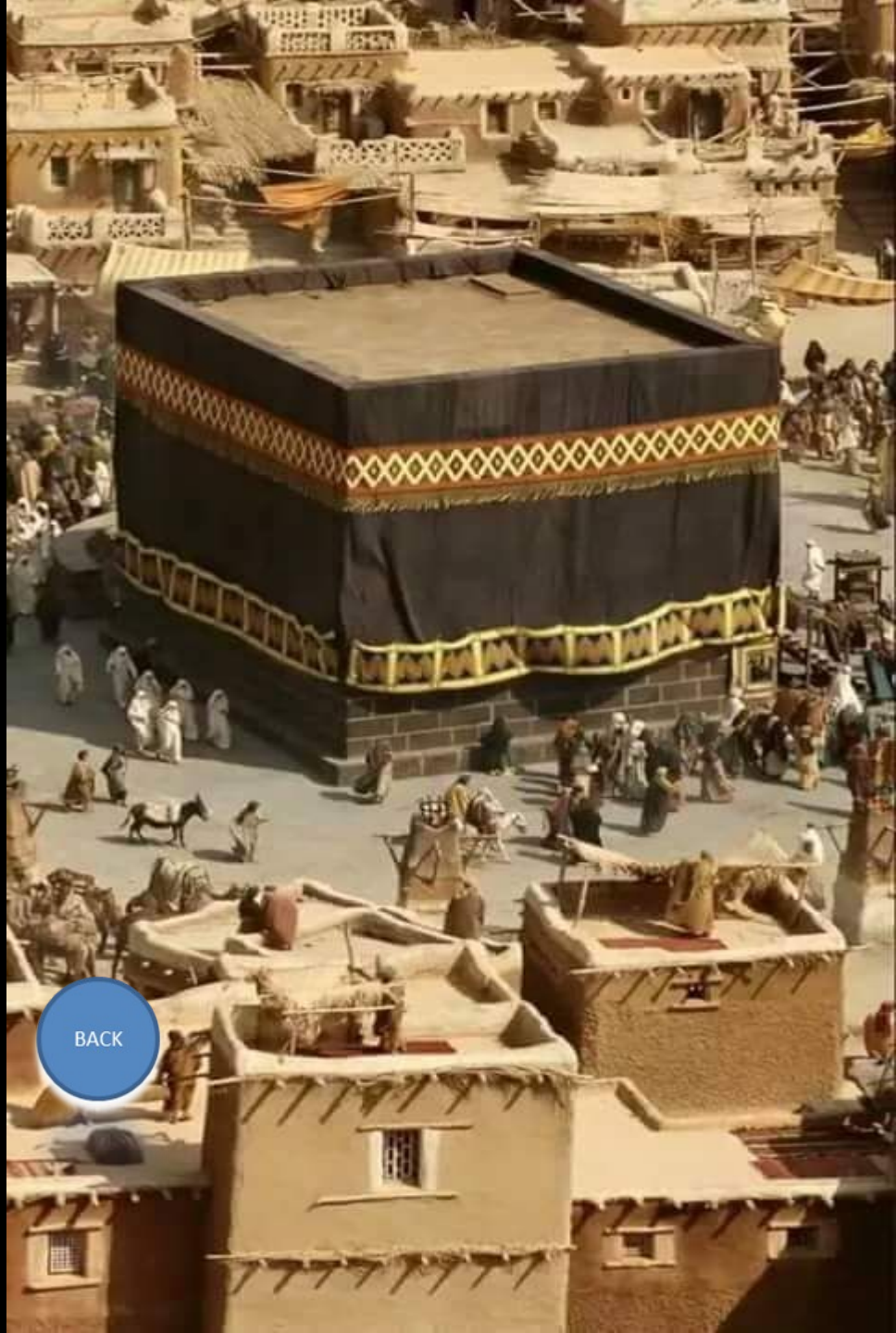
Themes and purpose:

This Meccan surah opens with a solemn oath by Time to affirm the universal truth that all humankind is in a state of loss. Its sole purpose is to define the essential conditions for eternal success and rescue from this loss: faith, righteous deeds and mutual encouragement to truth and patience.



Context of Revelation:

- Era: Makkan according to the majority of commentators.
- Context: The surah was revealed early in the Prophet’s mission to summarize the entire message in a concise, universal formula.
- Chronology: It is counted as the 13th surah in the order of revelation, revealed after Sūrat al-Sharḥ and before al-ʿĀdiyāt.



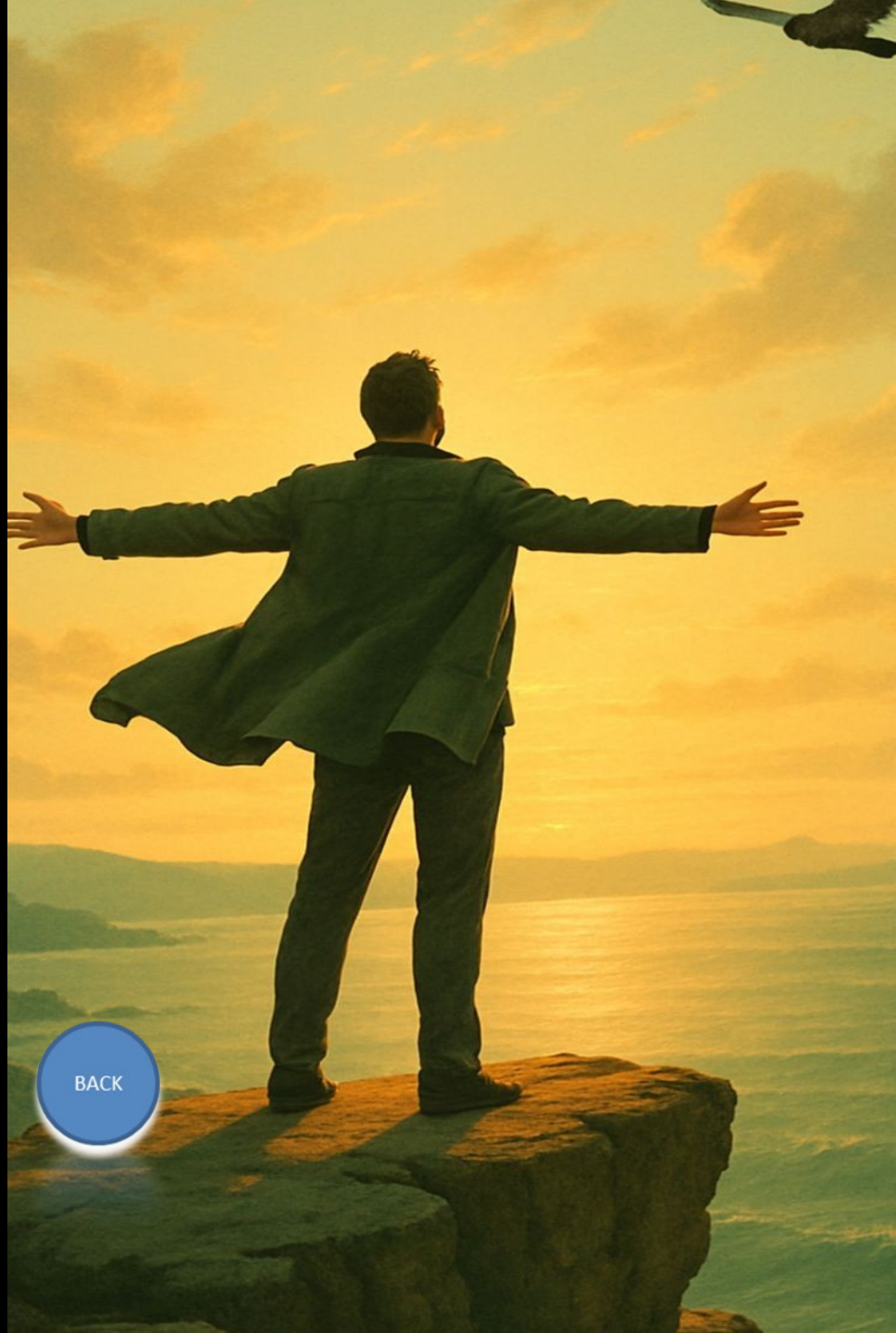
Name and Virtue

- Name: The surah is known both as "Sūrat al-ʿAṣr" (The Time/Afternoon) and "Sūrat wa-l-ʿAṣr", based on the opening oath.

- Virtue: The Companions used to recite this surah to each other before parting, recognizing its comprehensive summary of the entire faith.

Surah Overview:

- The Oath: Swearing by Time to affirm the severe and continuous loss suffered by all humankind. [1-2]
- Establishing the pillars of salvation that guarantee success: faith, righteous deeds, and mutual exhortation to the truth and to patience. [3]



THE AYAT IN DETAILS 2

By the passage of time!

إِنَّ ٱلْإِنسَٰنَ لَفِى خُسْرٍ ۝٢

Surely humanity is in grave loss,

وَٱلۡعَصۡرِ ۝١ إِنَّ ٱلۡإِنسَٰنَ لَفِي خُسۡرٍ ۝٢ إِلَّا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ
وَعَمِلُواْ ٱلصَّٰلِحَٰتِ وَتَوَاصَوۡاْ بِٱلۡحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوۡاْ بِٱلصَّبۡرِ ۝٣

except those who have faith, do good, and urge each other to the truth, and urge each other to perseverance.

EXCERCISES
BACK

1. Remembering (Recall)

1) How many verses are there in Surah Al-'Asr?
2) What does Allah swear by in this surah?
3) According to the surah, what is the condition of mankind?
4) What are the four qualities of the people who are not in loss?
5) Complete the verse:"Except those who _____, and _____, and encourage one another to _____, and encourage one another to _____."

2. Understanding (Comprehension)

1) What does the word "Al-'Asr" mean?
2) Why do you think Allah swears by time in this surah?
3) Explain what is meant by:"Indeed, mankind is in loss.“
4) Why are faith and righteous deeds mentioned together?
5) What is the difference between advising others to follow the truth and advising them to be patient?

3. Applying

1) How can you make good use of your time each day?
2) Give three examples of righteous deeds you can do at school.
3) Describe a situation where you could encourage someone to do what is right.
4) How can you show patience when facing difficulties?
5) Which of the four qualities in this surah do you think you need to improve the most? Explain.

4. Analyzing

1) Why do you think the four qualities are mentioned in this particular order?
2) How are belief and good deeds connected?
3) What would happen to a society if people stopped advising one another with truth?
4) Why is patience necessary when following the truth?
5) Compare the characteristics of those who are successful with those who are in loss.

5. Evaluating

1) Which of the four qualities do you think is the most challenging to practice today? Why?
2) Do you agree that time is one of the greatest blessings Allah has given us? Support your answer.
3) Why do some people waste time even though they know its value?
4) In your opinion, how can Surah Al-'Asr change a person's daily life?
5) Explain why someone who performs many good deeds but lacks sincere faith does not fulfill all the conditions mentioned in this surah.

6. Creating (Higher-Order Thinking)

1) Design a daily timetable that helps you practice the teachings of Surah Al-'Asr.
2) Write a short paragraph explaining the main message of the surah in your own words.
3) Create a poster with the title:"The Four Keys to Success in Surah Al-'Asr.“
4) Write a real-life story that demonstrates all four qualities mentioned in the surah.
5) Imagine you are giving a two-minute speech to your classmates about the importance of time based on Surah Al-'Asr. What would you say?

Higher-Order Thinking Challenge

1) Why do you think this very short surah is considered to contain a complete formula for success in life?
2) If a person believes in Allah and performs good deeds but never encourages others toward truth or patience, have they fulfilled all the conditions for success mentioned in this surah? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the surah.
3) How would families, schools, and communities improve if everyone practiced the teachings of Surah Al-'Asr?
4) Why do truth and patience need one another in order to achieve lasting success?
5) If you had to summarize the entire surah in one sentence

و الحمد لله رب العالمين